REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action dated March 13, 2002, the Examiner first objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the Claims. The Examiner particularly alleged that the following limitations, for example, directed to "a first device", "a second device", "a first command", "a second command", "a control mechanism" and "a mechanism" in Claim 1 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claims. The drawings were additionally objected to as not providing appropriate labels for certain elements shown in Figure 2.

Further in the Office Action, the specification was objected to as failing to properly incorporate by reference applicant's co-pending patent applications due to missing Patent application numbers. In response, applicant hereby amends the specification to incorporate the assigned United States Patent Application Serial numbers for the indicated omissions on page 8, 11 and 15.

Further in the Office Action, Claims 1-15 and 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §1.112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-15 are particularly rejected allegedly for failing to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. That is, the claimed limitation of "a first command", "a second command", "a control mechanism" and "a mechanism" in Claim 1 render Claims 1-15 indefinite because

the Examiner is unclear as to what defines said claimed limitations, and is unable to ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

Further in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 16-21 as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter of Claim 16, and specifically regarding the term "said second computing device" in lines 11-12. Further, Claims 22-27 were rejected due to instances of limitations in Claim 22 that allegedly lack sufficient antecedent basis.

With respect to the drawings, Figure 1 has been amended to set forth the notion of a first computer device indicated by a reference numeral 21 for which the smart personal pointer device (indicated as element 10) first interfaces with via wired or wireless connection 14. Figure 1 has been further amended to set forth the second computer device, e.g, a "visited" PC or like computer device indicated by the newly added reference label 22. These amendments are to clarify the functionality of the smart pointer device which interfaces with many computer devices and is able to transfer user preferences, for example, from a first home PC 21, to any same application executing on a visited computer device 22. The corresponding passages on page 11, lines 21 et seq., and page 12, line 22, et seq. have been amended to further set forth these features. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments to drawing Figure 1 does not constitute new matter and are provided to fully illustrate the functionality of the smart pointer device of the invention as set forth in the amended claims, now discussed.

Particularly, independent Claims 1, 16 and 22 are being amended to correct the issues raised by the Examiner, and to further clarify the main aspects of the personal smart pointer device, e.g. the mouse device, of the invention. For example, Claim 1, directed to the

personal smart pointer device, is being amended to set forth the capability of interfacing with a computer device for enabling a user to interface with an application executing on the computer device. This functionality is an inherent feature of a typical computer mouse device which generally is described on page 4, lines 23-29 of the specification. The personal smart pointer device additionally comprises a memory storage device for enabling storage of personalized user preferences relating to user customized aspects of the application executing on a first computer device (element 21, amended Figure 1); and, a control mechanism for controlling transfer of the personalized user preferences from the first computer device to the memory storage device for storage therein when said pointer device is interfaced with the first computer device. It is noted that originally claimed reference to "a first command" for initiating transfer has been eliminated. Particularly, in the amended specification passage at page 11, lines 21, et seq. there is described the mechanism for transferring data, to wit:

> ..the user device 21 from which data is to be transferred is provided with software for initiating transfer of selected personalized data such as preferences and customizations associated with the user, i.e., from the user device 21, e.g., that user's personal Windows® desktop to the personal pointer device 10. In an alternate embodiment, a user may initiate the transfer from the personal pointer device itself....This may be accomplished by a wireless communication or cabling 14 via the smart mouse port of the user device.

As shown in Figure 2, the control mechanism comprises the personal smart pointer hardware 20 (Figures 1 and detailed in Figure 2) including a CPU 55, software components 200 (Figure 3) including a synchronization manager 250 provided to synchronize data transfer between the Personal pointer device and the other devices as described at page 18-21, and software executing in the user device 21. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that there is sufficient support in the specification and drawings for the "control mechanism".

Amended Claim 1 further sets forth a mechanism in a visited second computer device for detecting the interfacing of said personal smart pointer device therewith. This is clearly shown at step 505 in the flowchart of the process 500 depicted in Figure 4(a) and 4(b) and further described in the specification at page 13, line 30 et seq. Further, in amended Claim 1, in response to entering a same user application on the second computing device (for which user preferences have been saved in the personal pointing device), the control mechanism further initiates transfer of the personalized user preferences from the memory storage device to the same application executing on the second computing device for altering the user application in accordance with the user customized aspects. It is noted that originally claimed reference to "a second command" has been eliminated, but refers to the same personal smart pointer hardware 20 (Figures 1 and detailed in Figure 2) including a CPU 55, software components 200 (Figure 3) including a synchronization manager 250 provided to synchronize data transfer between the Personal pointer device and the other devices, and software executing in the visited device 22. Detailed aspects of this transfer of personalized user preferences is clearly shown and described in Figures 4(a) and 4(b). Thus, according to the invention, the personal pointer device is transportable for transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of first computer devices to subsequent personalized use of same applications executing on the second computer devices.

In accordance with the deletion of the terms "first command" and "second command" in amended Claim 1, applicants hereby cancel Claim 2 without prejudice and, further amend Claim 10 accordingly.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the Claims. The Examiner is further requested to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-15 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. §1.112, second paragraph.

With respect to the rejected Claims 16-21 as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter of Claim 16, and specifically regarding the term "said second computing device" in lines 11-12, applicants hereby amend Claim 16 to remove references to "electronic" devices and replace those instances with computing devices. Thus, Claim 16 thus now includes proper antecedent basis for the term "second computing device". Claim 20 is accordingly being amended in conformance with the changes made to Claim 16 from which it depends.

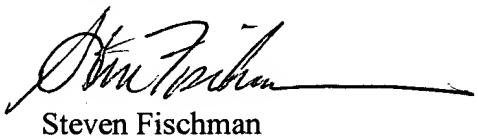
Likewise, with respect to the rejected Claims 22-27 as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter of Claim 22, and specifically regarding the term "said second computing device" in lines 10 and 14-15, applicants hereby amend Claim 22 to remove references to "electronic" devices and replace those instances with computing devices. Claim 26 is accordingly being amended in conformance with the changes made to Claim 22 from which it depends.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims, specification and drawings made herein obviate the objection to the specification and the drawings and accordingly request that the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §1.112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment.

In view of the foregoing remarks herein, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance be issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned, Applicants' attorney, at the following telephone number: (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Fischman
Registration No. 34,594

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530

SF:gc

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification from page 4, line 23 through page 5, line 22 as follows:

--Figure 1 illustrates the smart personal pointing device 10 which comprises components of a typical computer mouse device such as a position tracking roller ball mechanism 12, one or more buttons 13a,b,c including at least the mouse left-click 13a selection and right-click 13c option buttons, and, an interface 14 for transmitting signals from the mouse device to an attached computer device 21. In the preferred embodiment, the smart personal pointing device 10 additionally includes hardware and software elements 20 including a CPU, a memory board including flash memory, and wireless communications devices, e.g., receiver, transmitter, for enabling wireless voice and data communications. One hardware element includes a high-resolution display 15 for presenting use information, e.g., icons that may indicate that the battery is low, or for some other status indication. Additionally included is a universal serial bus (USB) interface device 18 for communicating data signals in accordance with the USB protocol, and, additional interfaces such as expansion Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) slots 19 so that the user of the device may utilize PCMCIA cards in conjunction with that user's own device, or a visited device. The ability to add compact flash/PCMCIA slots enables additions of peripherals such as compact

flash/PCMCIA cards for further flexibility, and additionally solves the problem of lack of PCMCIA slots in desktop machines. Thus for example, if the personalization data will not fit into the flash memory provided on the memory board, the user may additionally put a microdrive (such as provided by IBM) into the compact flash slot 19 which provides storage of more than 340 MB of data. In an example use of the smart personal pointing device, a user may plug his/her compact flash data card from his/her digital camera into the slot 19 and download digital pictures. As a further feature, the smart-mouse may be additionally provisioned with a wireless network card (not shown).--

Please amend the specification from page 7, line 32 through page 8, line 21 as follows:

-- For purposes of interacting with the device, the Personal pointer system 10 is provided with a touch sensitive screen/panel 90, and also a roller wheel mechanism, i.e., jog encoder 95. The touch sensitive screen enables the direct launching of applications by physical user entry of a graffiti "squiggle" in the manner such as described in commonly-owned co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/607,596 [_____ [YOR92000-0234, Atty. Docket No. 13577]]entitled GRAFFITI BASED APPLICATION LAUNCH ON A SMART WATCH, the whole contents and disclosure of which is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein, and may initiate other applications/actions/events by physical touching of certain Personal pointer display areas. In one embodiment, the touch sensitive screen panel is provided with a four (4) position touch screen. For instance, forward and back navigation for Personal pointer displays is enabled by physically touching certain areas of the touch sensitive

panel. The roller wheel mechanism 95 may be rolled up or down (i.e., clockwise or anticlockwise) to simulate a display cursor scrolling function for text and graphics, and specifically generates signals that are A/D converted for receipt by the processor to enable movement of the Personal pointer device display cursor, and more particularly, movement of an arrow cursor or other displayed indicators providing appointment update and browsing functions. --

Please amend the specification on page 11, lines 1 through line 19 as follows:

-- As further shown in Figure 3, the Personal pointer device 10 is equipped with application software 275 provided on top of the basic graphics, communication and synchronization subsystems. One key application supported is the microbrowser which enables access to a WAP-supporting Web site and receives Web-based communications written in, for example, the Wireless Markup Language ("WML") using the XML standard. WML particularly is designed to optimize Internet text data for delivery over limited-bandwidth wireless networks and onto small device screens, and particularly, is devised to support navigation with limited input mechanisms, e.g., buttons. Details regarding the implementation of WML in a Wrist Watch device may be found in commonly-owned, co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/608,042 [_____ [YOR92000-0224, Atty. Docket No. 13574]] entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD EMPLOYING WML ANNOTATIONS FOR USER INTERFACE CONTROL OF A WEARABLE APPLIANCE the contents and disclosure of which is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. Other supported applications include Personal Information Management (PIM) applications software 280. --

Please amend the specification from page 11, line 21 through page 12, line 20 as follows:

-- In accordance with the principles of the invention, as shown in Figure 1, the user device 21 from which data is to be transferred is provided with software for initiating transfer of selected personalized data such as preferences and customizations associated with the user, i.e., from the user device 21, e.g., that user's personal Windows® desktop to the personal pointer device 10. In an alternate embodiment, a user may initiate the transfer from the personal pointer device itself. For example, a user may have set some preferences in Microsoft Power-point, or even a Netscape browser, and even may have specially created icons which are sorted to the user's smart mouse for subsequent transmission to another device 22 when the user does not have access to his/her own PC. This may be accomplished by a wireless communication or cabling 14 via the smart mouse port of the user device 21. Other types of personalization data may include profile information such as desktop profile (list of applications on the main desktop), screen resolutions, screen savers, menus on start button, preferred settings for various applications, browser bookmarks, history of web sites visited, history of files last viewed, registry settings, passwords for various web sites and applications used by the owner. Furthermore, a personalized menu such as the bar of icons used for Freelance Graphics, Powerpoint, and related preferred settings such as font, document style, and dictionaries, may also be communicated to the smart personal pointing device 10 for storage and subsequent transmission according to the invention. Preferably, these preferences are all stored in preference files in the device memory corresponding to a

particular application. It is understood that other personalized preferences like click speeds and mouse (tracking ball) rolling rates may additionally be stored in preference files for implementation in the visited device 22. Furthermore, a microdrive may obviously be used store other items such as traditional files, presentations, images, etc. --

Please amend the specification from page 12, line 22 through page 13, line 28 as follows:

-- Via the system display 300 on the personal smart pointer device, a main menu comprising selectable icons for launching applications may be chosen. Alternately, as application may launched by a graffiti squiggle via the touch screen panel. One icon selection (not shown) would enable launch of an application for transmitting the personalized data including preferences and customizations, e.g., that user's personal Windows® desktop, to the desktop of a visited device 22, i.e., another person's PC. This may be accomplished by a wireless communication or via a smart mouse port at the visited device 22. In an alternate embodiment, a user may initiate the transfer of data from the personal pointer device 10 to the visited device 22 from the personal pointer device itself. Thus, in one example, when interacting with visited devices 22 such as phones and PDAs, data such as address books, power management options, etc., may be transferred to the particular device to personalize them. In the preferred embodiment, the personal pointer device 10 maintains the notion of the current application that the user has access to or is executing on the visited PC 22, and thus, knows which icons or preferences to transfer for that particular application and is able to perform the transfer on demand. That is, some applications like Lotus Notes, Lotus Freelance

Graphics, Microsoft PowerPoint, Netscape Navigator, etc., allow the user to build custom icons in the menu area of the screen, e.g., below the File Edit View menus. For example, in Netscape Navigator a special icon on the menu bar may take the user to a specific web site instead of having to type the URL for the web site. Thus, the icon list may be transmitted to the smart pointer and, the list of icons for a particular application may change utilizing the icon list received from the smart pointer 10. Thus, if multiple versions of applications exist such as Office 97, Office 2000, etc., the smart pointer holds data specific to each version. In accordance with this transfer mechanism, when the user disconnects from the visited device, e.g., PC, all traces of the user's personalization are removed from the PC 22 so that the integrity of the person's data is preserved. That is, appropriate application software is provided to remove the user's preferences once that user disconnects the device from the visited PC. Thus, preferences associated with the original (visited) PC will not get corrupted. --

Please amend the specification from page 15, line 22 through page 16, line 2 as follows:

-- By using a personalized smart mouse, the user is thus provided with a more personal experience with any standard computer or device, not just the computer at his desk. By keeping personal profile data in the personalized mouse the data such as passwords, etc., may be kept more securely. In accordance with a preferred embodiment, the smart personal pointer device is equipped with a password protection mechanism, such as that described in commonly-owned co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/608,110 [_____

[YOR92000-0237, Atty. Docket No. 13571]] entitled PASSWORD PROTECTION USING SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL VARIATION IN A HIGH-RESOLUTION TOUCH SENSITIVE DISPLAY, the whole contents and disclosure of which is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein, in order to render the mouse useless for anyone other than the owner.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1, 10, 16, 20, 22 and 26 as follows:

1. (Amended) A personal smart pointer device capable of interfacing with a computer device for [providing cursor movement functionality for a device display] enabling a user to interface with an application executing on said computer device, said pointer device comprising:

a memory storage device for enabling storage of personalized user preferences [data] relating to user customized aspects of [a user] said application executing on a first computer device;

a control mechanism for controlling [receipt] transfer of said personalized user preferences [data] from [a] said first computer device to said memory storage device [in response to a first command] for storage therein when said pointer device is interfaced with said first computer device; [and, in response to a second command said control mechanism

controlling transfer of personalized data from said memory storage device to a second device;] and,

a mechanism in [said] a visited second computer device for detecting an interfacing of said personal smart pointer device therewith, and in response to entering a same user application executing on said second computing device, said control mechanism further initiating transfer [responsive to receipt] of said personalized user preferences from said memory storage device to said same application [data] for altering [a like] said user application in accordance with said user customized aspects, wherein said pointer device is transportable for transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of first computer devices to [facilitate] subsequent personalized use of [like] same applications executing on said second computer devices.

10. (Amended) The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim [2] 1, [wherein said] further comprising [interface mechanism further comprises] a touch-sensitive panel interface responsive to user entry [said first and second commands] comprising one or more graffiti characters each representing an application to be launched in said personal pointer device.

16. (Amended) A method for customizing software applications in [electronic] computing devices via a mouse device, said method comprising:

a) receiving personalized data relating to customized aspects of a user application capable of executing in a first computing [electronic] device;

b) storing said personalized data in a memory storage device provided in said mouse device;

c) subsequently transferring said stored personalized data to a like user application capable of executing in a second [electronic] computing device; and,

d) altering said like user application executing in said second computing device in accordance with said customized aspects, wherein said mouse device is transportable for transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of first computing devices to facilitate use of like applications in said second computing devices.

20. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein a first and second [electronic] computing device comprises one of: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a cellular phone, and a network device.

22. (Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for customizing software applications executing in [electronic] computing devices, said method steps including the steps of:

a) receiving personalized data relating to customized aspects of a user application capable of executing in a first [electronic] computing device;

b) storing said personalized data in a memory storage device provided in said mouse device;

c) subsequently transferring said stored personalized data to a like user application capable of executing in a second [electronic] computing device; and,

d) altering said like user application executing in said second computing device in accordance with said customized aspects, wherein said mouse device is transportable for transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of first computing devices to facilitate use of like applications on said second computing devices.

26. (Amended) The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 22, wherein a first and second [electronic] computing device comprises one of: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a cellular phone, and a network device.